

Area Defense Study May Shift 14,000 Civilian Employees

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The Pentagon has initiated a study of defense installation needs in the Washington area which is likely to result in the shifting of some civilian employees to other parts of the nation.

However, a Pentagon spokesman said yesterday civilian employees should not be alarmed until the study is concluded to pin down the exact number of civilian and military workers who must be located here.

At most, the spokesman said, 10 or 15 percent of the civilian Defense employees in the Washington area — 14,000 to 21,000 — might face the possibility of being relocated "anywhere in the country." But he emphasized no decisions have been made, and no timetables set.

To Seek Master Plan

The study will be conducted to develop a "defense installations master plan" for the area for the next 10 years, Barry J. Shillito, assistant defense secretary for installations, told a House Armed Services subcommittee yesterday in disclosing the project.

"This project will determine what our image should be in the National Capital Region, what activities can and should be relocated out of the National Capital Region, and will also address the full scope of civilian encroachment against our future posture in this area," Shillito said.

The study will be conducted by a team of Army, Navy, Air Force and General Services Administration officials headed by an official of the Pentagon's office of real property management.

A first model of the master plan is due in March, and final plans are to be completed by next September in a process to include consultations and appearances before area planning bodies, including the National Capital Planning Commission, a spokesman said.

Program for Future

"Specifically," Shillito told the installations subcommittee, "we will be addressing the future of the Bolling-Anacostia area, the need for additional Defense office buildings and the final removal of all temporary and functionally obsolete buildings in the area."

military employees in the capital region, which includes the District; Prince Georges and Montgomery counties in Maryland; and Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Fauquier and Loudoun counties in Virginia. Only about 20 percent are military personnel, the Pentagon said.

"We probably have too big a concentration in the Washington area," William H. Point, director for real property management, said late yesterday in outlining plans for the study. His office will supervise the study.

There are 20 military bases in the area, Point said, but a majority of the employees are in GSA-furnished space or rental space. The Pentagon is one of the GSA-supplied buildings, he said.

To Be Studied

The study will look at such things as:

- The future of 440 of the 920 acres in the Bolling-Anacostia military complex. The military declared the 440 acres "excess," but the House Armed Services Committee rejected this and the D.C. government's request that it be allowed to use the land to ease the city's chronic housing shortage.

Point said, "There is a possibility the land could be declared excess once again." The House voted last month to extend to 1975 a ban on any development of this land for housing.

- The wisdom of building a proposed "junior" Pentagon to house about 10,000 Defense employees on a section of the Bolling site.

- The possibility of a need for a second building in this area the size of the Pentagon, which houses about 30,000 workers.

- A timetable for tearing down the World War I "temporary" buildings and Navy buildings at the west end of Constitution Ave.

See PENTAGON, Page A-6

PENTAGON

Continued From Page A-1

1 nue NW, and three "temporary"
3 buildings at the War College.

To Determine "Presence"

Over-all, the Pentagon says it hopes to "establish what our presence should be in the Washington area" and adjust its personnel and permanent housing accordingly.

The subcommittee hearing at which the plans for the study were disclosed was called to discuss "encroachment" of civilians on military installations throughout the nation "to protect necessary military interests in the years to come."

Point said that except for the interest shown in Anacostia-Bolling, and rejected by the House Armed Services Committee, the problem of "civilian encroachment" in the National Capital Region is minor compared to problems for the military in other parts of the nation.

*Let's keep our
eyes on these
developments.*
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